

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 EUR-08

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 OES-02 /042 W

----- 012750

O 021817Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8649

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01666

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CONCORDE

REF: STATE 21943

1. EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATES SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS DOT MAKING TO HAVE COPIES OF SECRETARY COLEMAN'S DECISION ON HAND IN LONDON AT TIME DECISION ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER ARRANGEMENTS DESCRIBED REFTEL, BRITISH OFFICIALS IN LONDON WOULD NOT SEE DECISION UNTIL TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS AFTER UK EMBASSY AND EVEN PRESS HAVE SEEN IT IN WASHINGTON. IN OUR VIEW, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT BRITISH OFFICIALS HERE IN LONDON WHO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONCORDE BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO READ AND REFLECT ON COLEMAN DECISION BEFORE IT IS ON THE WIRE SERVICES THAN IT IS FOR BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO SEE IT IN ADVANCE. WE THEREFORE URGE MOST STRONGLY THAT PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR RELEASE OF COLCORDE DECISION BE MODIFIED TO ACCORD SELECTED BRITISH OFFICIALS IN LONDON (AND FRENCH IN PARIS) SAME OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY DOT TO BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSIES LONDON AND PARIS BE ALLOWED TO INVITE HANDFUL OF HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (NO PRESS) TO EMBASSY AT
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1600Z TO READ COLEMAN DECISION. EACH EMBASSY WOULD

TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO LEAKS WOULD
OCCUR BEFORE 1830Z NEWS EMBARGO TIME.

2. BINNING TELEPHONED EMBOFF THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS
CONCERN AND SOME DISMAY OVER ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID
MINISTER OF STATE KAUFMAN FULLY SHARED HIS CONCERN AND
HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING HOW USG
COULD FAIL TO GIVE SOME REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE TO
FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT ON A MATTER OF SUCH IMPORTANCE. WE
TOLD BINNING WE WOULD REPORT VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.

SPIERS

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL BELIEVED INCORRECT.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, INFORMATION CONTROL, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON01666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760039-0126
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760292/aaaadctw.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 21943
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - CONCORDE
TAGS: EAIR, UK, FR, US, DOT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006